

ing, Alfred de Vigny's best work was already done; but  
 Hugo, " Victor in drama, victor in romance,"  
 pursued with  
 undimmed lustre his triumphal course.  
 Moreover, Lamartine had just issued his " Eecueillements  
 podtiques," and  
 Musset was publishing his tales in prose.  
 Meantime,  
 Michelet and the Thierrys gave life to History;  
 while Ste.  
 Beuve — when not wandering after petticoats,  
 and meditat-  
 ing on that" Livre d'Amour " which he was to  
 produce three  
 years later, and afterwards to destroy, as far as  
 possible, with  
 his own hands — was penning those Monday  
 criticisms  
 which may still be read with so much profit as  
 well as  
 pleasure.

Gautier was in Spain, having left the critical  
 arm-chair  
 of "La Presse" to the gifted and ill-fated Gerard  
 de Nerval;  
 but Janin discoursed in the " Dēbats" with his  
 usual flip-  
 pancy, at one moment suggesting (in  
 ignorance that any  
 " Mrs. Grundy" would ever assert herself)  
 that Paul de  
 Kock and his indecorum were best suited to  
 the English  
 taste, whereas Monsieur de Balzac might well  
 seek popular-  
 ity in Eussia. Thither, as it happened, the  
 great delineator  
 of " La Com<sup>^</sup>die Huniaine " repaired for the first  
 time towards  
 the close of that year, which found him in a  
 despondent  
 mood. In March, "Vautrin" had been

produced and  
promptly laid under interdict, because  
Fr4d3rick Lemaitre,  
who Impersonated the great rascal, had "made  
himself a  
head" like the King's. And sixteen volumes  
and twenty  
acts, written in a twelvemonth, Balzac  
complained, had  
not brought him freedom from pecuniary  
worries, even  
though the proceeds amounted to one hundred  
and fifty  
thousand francs.

If Balzac took his pecuniary cares to  
heart, there was